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Third in the Nation

11.19.2007 | Research, Engineering The University of Dayton graduate materials engineering program ranks third in the nation, according to an index measuring faculty productivity.

UD finished behind the University of Alabama and the University of Wisconsin in the 2006-07 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. UD placed higher than perennial premier engineering programs at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Illinois.

The survey released last week involved more than 200 research universities. It's based on faculty publications, citations and financial and honorary awards.

Danny Eylon, chair of UD's graduate materials engineering program, said providing classes on cutting-edge materials topics and real-life research opportunities with the Air Force Research Lab and University of Dayton Research Institute are among the program's strengths.

UD currently ranks second in the nation in the amount of both federally funded and total materials research it performs, according to the National Science Foundation.

"Our program has evolved to provide academic support for advanced materials development in the aerospace industry," Eylon said. "Many of the flying titanium alloys, ceramics, polymers, composites and nano-structured materials were conceived and developed in the Miami Valley."

Eylon, a titanium expert, participated in Boeing's Welliver Faculty Fellowship Program in 2006. He spent two months at three different Boeing facilities as part of the information sharing program between Boeing and university experts in various aviation disciplines.

Materials engineering examines how different materials react in different science and engineering applications.

Academic Analytics, composed of Stony Brook University researchers and Educational Directories Unlimited Inc., developed the FSP Index. The index does not use reputation rankings in its assessments.